

mugger *Crocodylus palustris* were found in one hole which was dug for plantation. Broken pieces of a few eggs were scattered nearby and the hole was partially covered by soil. This hole was situated at a distance of 15 m and at an elevation of 4 m from the waters of Sakhya Sagar. Earlier an adult mugger had been seen on the road many times. This was an unusual nesting site not only because of egg laying in a hole meant for tree plantation but also because of the high level of disturbance, with a large number of vehicles and men moving along the road from dawn to dusk.

Seven hatchlings came out of the eggs on 17 June 1991 and they were released into Sakhya Sagar

on 24 June 1991. Eight more eggs hatched on 29 June and hatchlings were released on 5 July. One hatchling among those released was found on the bank on 13 July 1991. It was again released into the water on the same day.

This is also the first time that successful breeding of mugger has been recorded in Madhav National Park, although I have frequently seen them swimming or basking since 1984. In January 1988, eight muggers basking at different locations were sighted within two hours.

September 16, 1991

RAJIV SAXENA

24. SWALLOWING OF PREY 'LEG FIRST' BY THE COBRA *NAJA NAJA*

On 6 August 1990, at about 0930 hrs, I was walking along a seasonal nulla near village Mohammadpur (Alwar district). I noticed the upper body of a large sized rat (*Tataru indica?*) protruding from a hole in the bund of a field. It remained motionless even after my close approach. I observed the animal carefully and found it dead. Its eyes were bulging. Soon I noticed that due to my presence, something was pulling the dead rat inside the hole. I grasped the head and tried to pull the rat out of the hole, but succeeded only in pulling it out a few centimetres. I found that the other end was being held

by an Indian cobra *Naja naja*, which was swallowing the rat tail end first.

Cases of swallowing feet first among Indian snakes have been reported earlier by Mundkur (1985, *JBNHS* 82(3): 676-77) in rat snake *Ptyas mucosus* and by Gay (1978, *JBNHS* 75(3): 854-59) in green keelback *Macropisthodon plumbicolor*. With the present observation, Indian cobra may be included in the list of "back first" swallowing snakes.

January 7, 1991

SATISH KUMAR SHARMA

25. FIRST RECORD OF *UPERODON SYSTEMA* FROM RAJASTHAN

A tree park, the World Forestry Arboretum has been set up near the Jhalana hills, just on the outskirts of Jaipur city by the Forest Department of Rajasthan. The Arboretum covers about 1,000 ha of forest area of the Jhalana hills (Reserve Forest Block No. 92).

Between 21 and 24 August 1990, a survey was conducted of the amphibian fauna present in the Arboretum. For this purpose all the frogs and toads, present in the 24 cemented tanks of the Arboretum (Part A) were captured for counting and identification (Table 1).

As many as eight species of amphibians, namely *Bufo melanostictus*, *B. stomaticus*, *Microhyla ornata*, *Rana cyanophlyctis*, *R. hexadactyla*, *R. limnocharis*, *R. tigerina* and *Tomopterna breviceps* have been recorded from Rajasthan (Inger and Dutta 1986, Dutta 1988, Sharma 1990, Mansukhani and

Murthy 1964). *Uperodon systema* is recorded for the first time in Rajasthan. One individual was captured

TABLE 1

STATISTICS OF AMPHIBIANS BAGGED FROM THE WORLD FORESTRY ARBORETUM, JAIPUR

Species	No. of individuals collected	% of total
<i>Bufo melanostictus</i> Schneider	15	11.62
<i>B. stomaticus</i> Lutken	29	22.48
<i>Rana cyanophlyctis</i> Schneider	7	5.42
<i>R. tigerina</i> Daudin	12	9.30
<i>Tomopterna breviceps</i> (Schneider)	65	50.38
<i>Uperodon systema</i> (Schneider)	1	0.77
Total	129	